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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 1 July 1952

SUBJECT Soviet-trained Bulgarian Officers
Attached to the Albanian Army

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1. During the month of March 1952, approximately one hundred Soviet-trained Bulgarian officers were attached to the Albanian Army. These officers are replacing an equal number of Soviet officers; and in view of the rank of the Soviet officers being replaced, the Bulgarian group will probably consist of the following grades:
 - 3 Colonels,
 - 9 Lieutenant colonels,
 - 12 Majors,
 - 29 Captains, and
 - 45 to 50 Lieutenants.
2. The exact assignments of the Bulgarian officers are not known; however, their primary mission is to instruct Albanian military personnel in the methods of Soviet military strategy and tactics. These officers have been carefully selected and enjoy the full confidence of the Soviet authorities. In addition to their primary mission as instructors, they are also responsible for selecting-out any dissident elements within the Albanian Army and forestalling any possible rebellion against the present Hoxha regime. To carry out this secondary mission, the Bulgarian officers have been given a large degree of discretion.
3. The Bulgarian officers are envied and dreaded by their Albanian colleagues, including members of the Albanian Workers' Party. Recommendations submitted by Bulgarian officers to counter anti-regime elements appear in monthly reports prepared by the Bulgarians for their Soviet superiors.

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